

A Newsletter for the Horticulture Division of Walt Disney World

Every Bloomin' Thing

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ARBOR DAY EDITION

APRIL 1984

WALT DISNEY WORLD PLANS CELEBRATION

In the past ten years, Americans have become more "green" conscious. We have begun to appreciate the importance of green plants in our daily lives, whether they are blades of grass at our doorstep or a timberline on some mountain peak. As individuals, trees shelter and beautify our homes, shade our streets and highways, give charm and dignity to our parks, and life and character to our landscapes. There has been a concerted drive, spurred on by our ecologists, to make "America Green", a long time in coming as compared to what has been done by countries of the "Old World".

It is estimated that a 25' square plot of grass gives enough oxygen to sustain life day after day for one adult. Each year an acre of trees can produce enough oxygen to keep 18 persons alive. This trend to help improve our environment and keep "America Beautiful" can be enhanced by planting more trees in urban, suburban and rural areas.

As a tribute to all of the elements that our trees contribute to our society, ARBOR DAY was established. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary simply defines this day as "a day designated for planting trees".

No time is so befitting as now to commemorate this day by not only planting one tree, but 300 trees! We invite you all to plant at least one oak, maple or pine so bring as many shovels as you can muster and share in the fun and excitement of celebrating ARBOR DAY at WALT DISNEY WORLD and helping to make it GREEN again.

Jonny

ARBOR DAY ACROSS AMERICA

National Arbor day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, but many states celebrate Arbor Day at times more conducive to tree planting in their local climate. Some states observe an Arbor Week or an Arbor Month. Nearly every Arbor Day celebration involves the planting of trees.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in Nebraska in 1872. J. Sterling Morton, a journalist from Detroit, moved to Nebraska Territory in 1854. At that time Nebraska was a treeless plain and Morton and his fellow pioneers missed the beauty and benefits of trees. Morton's home, called Arbor Lodge, was soon planted with trees of many species.

Before long, Morton became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper, and through this forum he encouraged other Nebraska settlers to plant trees for soil protection, for fuel and building materials, and for fruit, shade and beauty.

In 1872, Morton convinced the board of agriculture of the young state to set aside a day for planting trees. The event was called Arbor Day and more than one million trees were planted in the state on that day. By 1894, Arbor Day was celebrated in every state and in this century the holiday has spread to other countries.

J. Sterling Morton was fond of saying that "Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future." This theme of planting for the future is apparent in the thousands of Arbor Day celebrations organized by communities and schools every year. And for many people, the act of tree planting evokes a special feeling. "He that plants trees loves others than himself," said clergyman Thomas Fuller, and modern day Wisconsin naturalist Walter E. Scott has explained, "There is a very spiritual connection between people and trees, especially if you plant them."

Excerpt from article written by John Rosenow, National Arbor Day Foundation Executive Director.

FRUIT FLIES

During the past few weeks, we all have been bothered by pesty little insects which we call fruit flies. These fruit flies, also called vinegar flies or pomace flies, are a species known as Drosophila melanogaster meigen. They are of concern both as a pesty nuisance and as a contaminator of food.

Fruit flies are attracted to many different materials including fruits, vegetables, fermenting products, empty bottles, cans, drains, garbage areas, and anywhere moisture has collected including mops and cleaning rags. Each adult female lays approximately 500 eggs on the surface of these materials for the minute larvae to feed on after hatching. Large populations can build quickly because the larvae mature to adults in 9 to 12 days.

The pest control department is doing everything possible to control the fruit fly problem. The most effective control of these flies is a good sanitation program. Everyone should help by pointing out any area that is having a sanitation problem or an area with a large concentration of fruit flies.

Thorn Lear, Supervisor
Structural Pest Control



PERENNIAL COLOR IN THE LANDSCAPE

Corn flag or sword lilies are probably more commonly known by their scientific name, Gladiolus sp. They are native to South Africa and the Near East. Their habit is characterized by green sword-like foliage 2 feet tall with a spike-like cluster bloom raising well above the foliage.

Several different species of Gladiolus are used in the Hub at the Magic Kingdom. Glads can be started from seed but best results are obtained from corms which produce far superior plants. They are planted 4 to 6 inches deep and 6 to 8 inches apart for commercial growing but 3 to 5 inches apart for mass garden plantings. Gladiolus can be planted as early as April or May and first flowering will then come in June or July. To maintain constant flowering, they should be planted every 2-4 weeks.

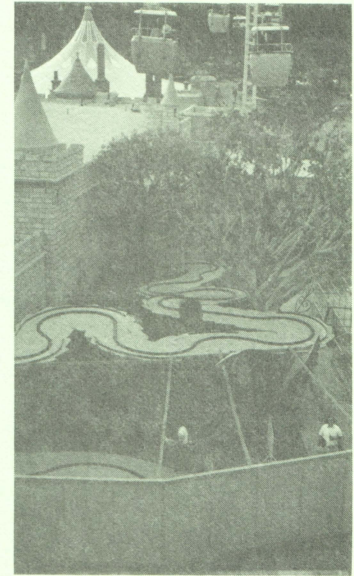
Before the first frost, corms should be removed from the ground and the tops removed to aid in drying them out. Propagation of cultivars is by means of cormlets that form at the bottom of the corms. It should be noted that Gladiolus are also a very large part of the cut flower industry.

Les Weller
Tree Farm/Nursery

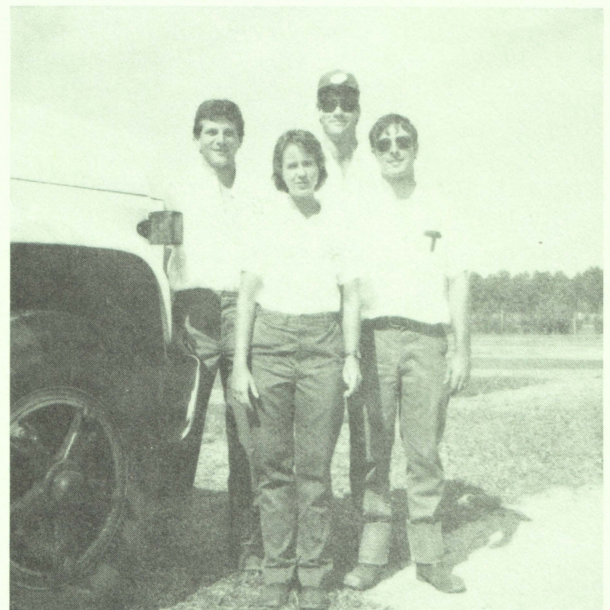
DISNEYLAND BURSTS WITH SPRING COLOR

The Park is exploding with Spring color as our shift from blues and reds, to yellows and oranges transforms the Park into a brightly colored landscape. Marigolds, snapdragons, phlox and calendulas assist the flowering shrubs such as azaleas, camellias, and viburnums, in adding splashes of color throughout the entire Park.

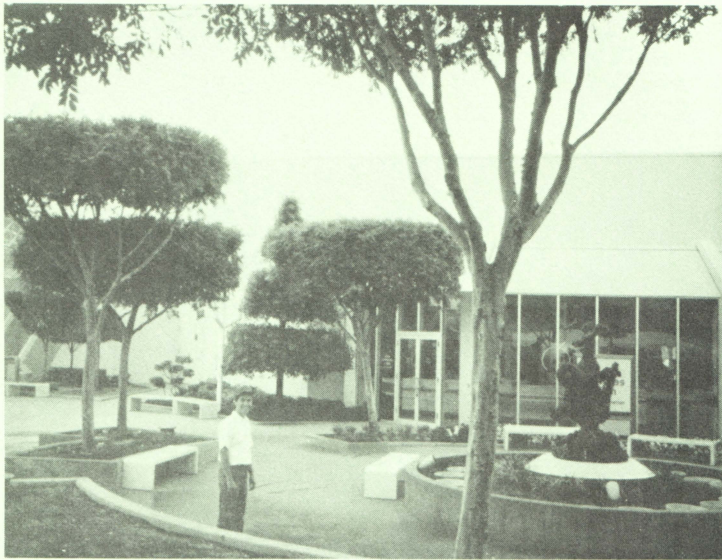
Our new Alice in Wonderland attraction, which is the last phase of the new Fantasyland, is coming along right on schedule. Some of the unique plant materials used in this landscape are a 30' Ficus retusa, two 18' Podocarpus gracilior, one 15' Calodendrum capense, and four 10' camellias. The real challenge is to consolidate all of this into a 5,000 sq. ft. area and to choose plants that compliment the fanciful theme.



Ken Inouye, Superintendent
DISNEYLAND



A special thanks to Dayne Jones, Sue Manney, Drew Davis and Scott White (L-R) who are instrumental in keeping our plant delivery system going. March 17th marked the one year anniversary for this system. "Keep on truckin!"



IMAGINE THIS

The Imagination Garden is a focal point for visitors to Kodak's Journey Into Imagination at EPCOT Center. Recently we have rehabbed the garden, removing and replacing close to 90% of the landscape. Working with a new design with new criteria, we went about changing some basic elements.

Since the network of fountains are the main show, it was determined that the role of our plants should be that of a pleasant backdrop and not a show in and of themselves. With this in mind, we then had to find plants that suited our aesthetic requirements as well as our site conditions, namely the excess water from the fountains. Around the leapfrog fountains we planted Liriope muscari 'Evergreen giant' and Acorus gramineus 'Variegatus' which presented a striking contrast. The other beds were redesigned and were also planted with new material. Ilex vomitoria, Nandina domestica 'Nana purpurea', dwarf Ophiopogon japonicus, Severina buxifolia and Liriope muscari were used in the geometrically shaped beds to give more depth and a new look to the gardens.

Not all of the landscape in the garden takes a back seat to the high-tech fountains. The geometrically pruned Ulmus parvifolia, Podocarpus macrophyllus and Quercus laurifolia make quite a profound statement in the overall design of the area. As well, the 1800 square feet of themed annual color leaves a mark all its own on the garden. All in all, the project turned out well. It adds to the enjoyment for the guests when they visit the Imagination Garden. After all, that is what our job is all about.

Dennis Lynch
EPCOT Center Landscape

COCONUTS IN THE TROPICS



Of the four or five palms most significant in world agriculture Cocos nucifera, the coconut palm, is easily the most important. It is found on every tropical seacoast, and has an astonishing range of uses, including food, fiber and fuel.

We're all familiar with the shredded, sweetened coconut meat used as a confection, but in many areas, coconut meat is a dietary staple. The meat, or endosperm, is also an important oil source, used for cooking, as a lubricant, even burned as fuel. Many tons of this copra, as the dried and shredded endosperm is called, enters world commerce each year.

In areas where pure water for drinking is hard to find, the coconut milk, actually the liquid portion of the endosperm, provides a refreshing beverage. The palm is also tapped for its sap which is used as a sugar source or fermented to make alcohol.

The husk fiber, or coir, is used to make ropes and matting, the fronds are used to thatch the roofs of houses, woven into mats and made into baskets, and the trunks provide a heavy and durable timber.

Unlike date palms, coconuts are monoecious relatively fast growing. The two we have growing in the Tropic Culture House are the 'Green Malayan Dwarf' cultivar - one of the newer cultivars that are resistant to the lethal yellowing disease that had all but eliminated the coconut and many other palms from Florida.

Although we believe our coconuts to be only about five years old, they began to flower for the first time in July, 1983. During the rest of that summer, each palm produced several inflorescences. Male flowers are found mostly toward the tips of each inflorescence, and since they shed pollen a day or so before the female flowers become receptive, pollen was stored in a refrigerator until the much larger female flowers signaled their readiness by a characteristic glistening.

Because the palms are so young, most of the flowers aborted soon after pollination. Persistence has paid off though; we now have a grand total of 12 coconut fruits in various stages of development. Normally it takes about a year to produce a fully ripened fruit, and the two largest fruits, now about the size of cantaloupes, are just a few months away from being the first coconuts harvested here at WALT DISNEY WORLD.

Ginny Mann & Gary Paul
The Land

SESSION III OFFERINGS
AT VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Registration for session III classes, which begin May 7, is during the first week of May.

WEST CAMPUS

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

*ENY 1007C	Principles of Entomology	6:00P-9:45P	Thu.
*HOS 1010C	Intro. to Horticulture	6:00P-9:45P	Mon.
*HOS 2004C	Plant Propagation	9:00A-1:00P	Sat.
*ORH 1521C	Ornamental Plant Mat. I	6:00P-9:45P	Wed.
*ORH 1522C	Ornamental Plant Mat. II	6:00P-9:45P	Thu.
*ORH 1858C	Ornamental Plant Maint.	5:30P-10:15P	Tue.
*ORH 2203C	Florist Crop Production	6:00P-9:45P	Tue.

EAST CAMPUS

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

*HOS 1010C	Intro. to Horticulture	6:00P-9:45P	Thu.
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PEST CONTROL

*ENY 1002	Basic Entomology	6:00P-9:45P	Mon.
*ENY 2231	Lawn/Ornamental Pests	6:00P-9:45P	Wed.

Remember, if you take a course related to the duties of your present position, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Obtain an application from your department office, fill it out and send it to the Horticulture Training Office prior to the beginning of classes.



THE CABBAGE PALM
--OUR STATE TREE

The cabbage palm, Sabal palmetto, is a favorite Florida landscape palm. It does well on wet or dry sites and is very salt tolerant. It is the most common native tree-like palm in Florida and can be seen in bouquet-like groups along World Drive and EPCOT Center Drive.

This palm, so important to Central Florida landscapes today, has always been an important part of our state's history. The logs were used for fortification walls, mats and hats were made from the leaves, and the tender portion of the central bud was cut from the tree and eaten as a swamp cabbage.

The cabbage palm has been a symbol of the real Florida long before it was designated by Florida legislature in 1953 as our state tree.



OPERATION REHAB--TOM SAWYER'S ISLAND

Just before the busy spring season arrived a major facelift took place on Tom Sawyer's Island. This project began March 5th and was scheduled to be completed in approximately six weeks. Gardeners, as well as other shop trades worked hard to stay on schedule in order to produce a better show area.

Over the past 12 years, the natural effect of the island had been lost in the overgrowth of trees and shrubs, so a total redesign of the landscape was in order. Working closely with landscape architects Bob Boos and Cindy Cleary, the Frontierland rehab crew was able to remove predesignated trees and shrubs from the existing landscape and replace them with a more colorful array of plant material. A condensed plant palette includes Azalea indica 'Duc de Rohan', Azalea indica 'Formosa', Azalea indica 'George Gerbing', Raphiolepis indica, Severinia buxifolia, Cornus florida, Cercis canadensis and Betula nigra.

So next time you have a chance to visit Tom Sawyer's Island remember, keeping this natural look doesn't come naturally--the Frontierland rehab crew can attest to that!

Cindy Cook, John Greemore, Ed Hempfield, Randy Orras and Eric Sopp
The Frontierland Rehab Crew



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